

Message Text

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INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 3544

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 5993

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/81

TAGS: MCAP, PINR, NATO, XF, PFOR

SUBJECT: DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING DECEMBER 7, 1973: AGENDA
ITEM I, INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING

VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR; GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

AFTER THE NUCLEAR DEFENSE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE APPROVED A
REPORT OF NUCLEAR PLANNING GROUP ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR
(NDAC/D(73)1), DPC BEGAN ITS MINISTERIAL SESSION BY
RECEIVING INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING GIVEN BY MAJOR GENERAL
FOURNAIS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR INTELLIGENCE, INTERNA-
TIONAL MILITARY STAFF. TEXT FOLLOWS. THERE WERE NO
QUESTIONS OR DISCUSSION.

BEGIN TEXT:

INTRODUCTION

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1. THIS BRIEFING WILL ONLY ATTEMPT TO INDICATE
THE HIGHLIGHTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WARSAW PACT
CAPABILITIES IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS.

MIDDLE EAST

2. NO DOUBT YOU WILL EXPECT ME TO START WITH THE MIDDLE EAST WAR AND THE IMPORTANT QUESTION OF THE LESSONS OF THAT CONFLICT FOR NATO. IT IS TOO EARLY YET TO PROVIDE DETAILED ASSESSMENTS, HOWEVER, STUDIES ARE IN HAND BUT THEY WILL REQUIRE A GREAT DEAL OF INPUTS FROM NATIONS. WE HAVE ALREADY HAD TWO OR THREE MOST VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS. EVEN AT THIS EARLY STAGE CONSIDERATION OF THE EFFECT OF THE SURFACE TO AIR MISSILES, ANTI-TANK MISSILES AND THE PART PLAYED BY ECM AND ECCM SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT CURRENT NATO STUDIES ARE ON THE RIGHT LINES.

SOVIET MILITARY COMMAND

3. THE SOVIET MILITARY COMMAND IS BEING REJUVENATED WITH YOUNGER MEN. IT SEEMS THAT PARTY AFFILIATIONS, WHILE STILL RELEVANT, MAY HAVE BECOME LESS IMPORTANT THAN PROFESSIONAL MILITARY ABILITY.

SOVIET STRENGTH FACING ACE

4. THERE HAS BEEN NO REDUCTION IN THE NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF THE SOVIET FORCES FACING ACE, BUT THERE IS EVIDENCE OF IMPROVED CAPABILITY, PARTICULARLY IN THE AIR DEFENCE OF GROUND FORCES, AS SHOWN BY THE INTRODUCTION OF THE MOBILE SA-6 SURFACE TO AIR MISSILE SYSTEMS IN THE SOVIET FORCES IN GERMANY, CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND HUNGARY. COMBAT EFFICIENCY IS CONTINUALLY BEING IMPROVED BY STANDARDIZATION OF EQUIPMENT, ORGANIZATIONS AND PROCEDURES WHICH SIMPLIFIES CO-OPERATION, COMBAT PLANNING AND LOGISTIC SUPPORT.

TROOP ROTATIONS

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5. THE SEMI-ANNUAL ROTATION OF SOVIET TROOPS IN THE FORWARD AREA HAS BEEN COMPLETED DURING NOVEMBER. IT IS INTERESTING THAT THE AIRLIFT TO THE MIDDLE EAST IN OCTOBER DID NOT REDUCE THE SCALE OF THE LATER AIRLIFT USED IN THE TROOP ROTATION, WHICH EXCEEDED ALL PREVIOUS RECORDS. IT MAY BE THAT A LARGER NUMBER OF TROOPS THAN EVER BEFORE WERE ROTATED THIS TIME.

SOVIET AIR ACTIVITIES

6. THE SPEED WITH WHICH THE AIRLIFT TO THE MIDDLE EAST WAS MOUNTED, AND THE NUMBER OF FLIGHTS MADE OVER A LONG-DISTANCE ROUTE, DEMONSTRATED THE SOVIET ABILITY TO REINFORCE AN AREA QUICKLY AND

SUBSTANTIALLY.

7. AIR EXERCISES HAVE FOLLOWED A NORMAL PATTERN, WITH EMPHASIS ON AIR TO GROUND SUPPORT; NEARLY ALL AIR EXERCISES ARE CONDUCTED IN A HEAVY ECM ENVIRONMENT. THE EMPHASIS ON AIR-TO-GROUND SUPPORT MISSIONS MERITS OUR ATTENTION, SINCE THE DESTRUCTION OF AIRCRAFT FLYING THIS TYPE OF MISSION IS DIFFICULT. THE CONTROL OF SUCH WEAPONS AS THE HAND-HELD SOVIET SA-7 GRAIL SURFACE TO AIR MISSILE OPERATED BY INDIVIDUAL SOLDIERS, PRESENTS A PROBLEM OF IDENTIFICATION OF FRIEND OR FOE.

8. THERE HAS BEEN A WIDER DEPLOYMENT OF THE MIG-23 FLOGGER IN WESTERN DISTRICTS OF THE USSR AND FOR PILOT TRAINING IN THE GDR AND POLAND IF INTRODUCED IN SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS IN THE FORWARD AREA, THIS AIRCRAFT WOULD POSE A MAJOR PROBLEM TO NATO'S AIR DEFENSE, AS THEY HAVE AN INCREASED RANGE AND WEAPONS CAPABILITY. AN INCREASE IN THE DEPLOYMENT OF MIG-25 FOXBAT AIRCRAFT TO AIR DEFENCE DISTRICTS IN THE USSR HAS ALSO BEEN RECORDED. THE BACKFIRE BOMBER WHICH CAN REACH TARGETS IN NORTH AMERICA, PROVIDED IT HAS IN-FLIGHT REFUELLING, CAN BE EXPECTED IN SERVICE SHORTLY.

SOVIET NAVAL ACTIVITY

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9. RECENT EVENTS HAVE AGAIN SHOWN THAT THE SOVIETS CAN QUICKLY CONCENTRATE SUITABLE NAVAL FORCES WHEN IT IS REQUIRED. AT ITS PEAK IN THE MIDDLE EAST WAR THE SOVIET MEDITERRANEAN SQUADRON NUMBERED MORE THAN 90 SHIPS OF VARIOUS TYPES.

10. THE SOVIET NAVY HAS ALSO BEEN USED IN THE TRADITIONAL ROLE OF EXERTING INFLUENCE ON OTHER NATIONS BY PEACEFUL MEANS, BY CARRYING OUT A NUMBER OF PORT VISITS TO VARIOUS COUNTRIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THIS SLIDE SHOWS THE NUMBER OF VISITS TO PORTS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN DURING THE YEAR UP TO SEPTEMBER 1973. THE VISITS SHOWN TO ITALY AND FRANCE WERE NEARLY ALL MADE BY SMALL NAVAL-ASSOCIATED SURVEY SHIPS. (AGS) RUMSFELD

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11. ELSEWHERE, THEIR NAVAL ACTIVITY HAS FOLLOWED A NORMAL COURSE; NAVAL DEPLOYMENTS ARE SUPPORTED BY AN INCREASINGLY MODERN "AFLOAT SUPPORT" FLEET.

12. THIS YEAR HAS SEEN THE USUAL DEPLOYMENT OF BEAR AIRCRAFT TO CUBA AND, FOR THE FIRST TIME, SIMILAR DEPLOYMENTS TO CONAKRY. THIS NEW BASE PROVIDES A SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED RECONNAISSANCE CAPABILITY, COVERING THE WHOLE SOUTH ATLANTIC OUTSIDE NATO RADAR COVER.

13. IN ADDITION TO THE NAVAL SEALIFT TO ARAB COUNTRIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST WAR, IT IS REPORTED THAT BETWEEN THE 5TH OF OCTOBER AND MID-NOVEMBER, 116 SOVIET AND WARSAW PACT MERCHANT SHIPS HAVE CALLED AT ARAB PORTS. THIS COULD REPRESENT A CARRYING CAPACITY OF ABOUT ONE MILLION TONS.

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NEW EQUIPMENT

14. WE HAVE RECEIVED REPORTS OF A NEW FAMILY OF FOUR INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILES; IT IS EXPECTED THAT ALL EXCEPT ONE, WILL BE CAPABLE OF CARRYING A MULTIPLE INDEPENDENTLY-TARGETTED RE-ENTRY VEHICLE (MIRV) PAYLOAD. ONE NEW NUCLEAR ATTACK SUBMARINE AND ONE NEW CONVENTIONAL SUBMARINE HAVE BEEN NOTED. WE HAVE, THIS WEEK, RECEIVED A REPORT THAT THE SOVIETS ARE TESTING A NEW SUBMARINE-LAUNCHED BALLISTIC MISSILE WHICH HAS A HOMING CAPABILITY AGAINST A MOVING SHIP TARGET AT RANGES UP TO 500 MILES.

SUMMARY

15. AS IN THE PAST THE SOVIETS HAVE NOT DEVIATED FROM THEIR LONG-TERM AIMS. A COMPARATIVELY UNOBTRUSIVE ATTITUDE EARLY IN THE YEAR WAS POSSIBLY DESIGNED TO PROVIDE THEM WITH GOOD STANDING IN THE MBFR AND CSCE NEGOTIATIONS. THEY HAVE FOUND THAT SPECTACULAR ACTIVITIES TEND TO SHARPEN THE DEFENCE POSTURE OF THE WEST. NEVERTHELESS, THERE WAS PLENTY OF EVIDENCE OF CONTINUED EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THEIR EQUIPMENT, DEPLOYMENT AND FIGHTING CAPABILITY.

16. THE MIDDLE EAST WAR, CAN BE SEEN AS AN EXAMPLE OF LENIN'S THEORY OF 'FIGHT BY PROXY'. THE SOVIETS HAVE AS USUAL BEEN QUICK TO CAPITALISE ON THE SITUATION, EVEN IF IT WERE NOT ACTUALLY OF THEIR MAKING. CERTAINLY THE RECENT ACTIONS OF THE ARAB NATIONS OVER OIL ARE WORKING TO THE BENEFIT OF THE SOVIETS.

17. ONCE AGAIN, THE SOVIETS HAVE SHOWN, BY THEIR AIR LIFT AND CONCENTRATION OF NAVAL FORCES, THEIR ABILITY AND WILLINGNESS TO USE MILITARY POWER, WHEREVER AND WHENEVER IT IS IN THEIR INTEREST TO DO SO.

END TEXT.
RUMSFELD

SECRET

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